



JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF
CALIFORNIA
ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE
OF THE COURTS
Public Information Office
455 Golden Gate Avenue
San Francisco, CA 94102-3688
www.courtinfo.ca.gov

415-865-7740

Lynn Holton
Public Information Officer

NEWS RELEASE

Release Number: 54

Release Date: September 12, 2005

State Bar Awards Bernard Witkin Medal To Chief Justice Ronald George

San Francisco—The State Bar of California has awarded its Bernard Witkin Medal to California Chief Justice Ronald M. George for his significant contributions to the quality of justice and legal scholarship in the state.

The chief justice is “a leader willing to speak up, a leader willing to put his words into action and a leader willing to fight for the rights of every citizen in our state,” said outgoing State Bar President John Van de Kamp, who presented the award at the bar’s recent annual meeting in San Diego.

As recipient of the prestigious medal, which recognizes “those legal giants among us who have altered the landscape of California jurisprudence,” Chief Justice George was recognized for, among other things, his leadership in expanding legal services for the poor, simplifying the court system, advocating for adequate court funding, unifying the state trial courts, improving technology in courts, and advancing pro bono efforts.

The Bernard Witkin Medal is named after its first recipient, California’s foremost legal scholar, who received the medal in 1993.

As he accepted the award, Chief Justice George said, “I want to express my great appreciation to the bar for the Witkin Medal, especially John Van de Kamp and Andy Guilford, and the distinguished panel they selected. The list of previous recipients is a most distinguished one, and I am very honored to join their ranks.”

This year’s selection panel included Chair Andrew Guilford, former State Bar president, of a Costa Mesa law firm; James Brosnahan, of a San Francisco law firm; Presiding Justice Arthur Gilbert, of the Court of Appeal, Second Appellate District, Division Six; Dean Janice Pearson, of San Joaquin College of Law in Clovis, and Professor Gerald Uelmen, of the University of Santa Clara School of Law.

#